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On Feb. 16, Lunar New Year's Day, President Ho Chi Minh graced Arbor Day at Vat Lai village, Ba Vi district, Ha Tay province. *He is shown here planting a young banyan-tree*

Latest News

FRESH PLAF WAVES OF ATTACKS IN 50 CITIES AND URBAN CENTRES :

Enemy military and logistic bases, airfields, ports and HQs under fire since night of Feb 22.

SAIGON and Vicinity : Targets in 1rst. 2nd. 3rd. 9th districts, Nha Be, Long Binh logistic depots, Tan Son Nhut, Bien Hoa etc... airfields hit.

DA NANG : Many logistic dumps in blaze throughout the night, scores of planes destroyed on the ground, in airbase.

HIGH PLATEAUX : Violent popular upheavals. Enemy in Kontum, Pleiku, Buon Me Thuot, Gia Nghia town and sub-sectors' CPs attacked.

Centre and South of Central Viet Nam : Hué, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai areas, Chu Lai and Phan Rang airfields, Cua Viet port... assaulted.

Mekong Delta : Several provincial capitals, U.S. airfields and bases (including those of Can Tho, My Tho, Vinh Long etc.) raided.

See details in our next issue

TOTAL AND UNCONDITIONAL U.S. AND SATELLITE PULL-OUT SOLE KEY TO A VIET NAM SETTLEMENT

As a year has passed, every observer seeing events in the proper perspective agrees today that the 1968 Tet general offensives were the decisive factor in bringing about an "agonizing appraisal" of U.S. strategy in Viet Nam which had to switch unmistakably from the offensive over to the defensive. A halt was consequently put to the beefing up of American troops in Viet Nam, as the figure of half a million GIs was considered a ceiling which it would be politically disastrous to go beyond. However, what was demanded by public opinion in the United States was not the restriction of the expeditionary troop strength but their repatriation from a land thousands of miles far away where they had been sent to wage an aggressive war.

"End the war !", "Bring our boys home", these watchwords have been resounding throughout the U.S. territory and compelled the Republican candidate to presidential elections, Richard Nixon, until then renowned for his aggressiveness, to soften his political stand on Viet Nam. At the New Hampshire primaries in March 1968, one month after the dramatic Tet events, he undertook to terminate the war and restore peace in the Pacific once he had been elected.

And now, what is the policy favoured by the new inmate of the White House ? Particularly revealing in this connection is the article written in Foreign Affairs, *of Jan. 1969 by Henry Kissinger, adviser to the U.S. president on National Security. The Viet Nam policy of the new ruling team in the U.S. is, to put it in a nutshell, pursuance of neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam by the holding of negotiations from a position of strength in order to secure at the conference table what could not be achieved on the battlefield, and the parallel implementing of a military strategy which would reduce casualties and concentrate on protecting bases and densely populated areas.*

Confident that they would be able to hold on indefinitely to South Viet Nam by somehow limiting their own objectives, the new bosses in Washington are talking of "de-Americanizing" the war, strengthening the Saigon army and supplying it with new weapons, and withdrawing gradually part of the American troops.

A great ballyhoo is being hicked up by U.S. propaganda about this so-called gradual withdrawal of the GIs. It is even trumpeted that the Saigon administration, well known for its strong opposition to any departure of U.S. troops, is now suggesting that some 20,000 American soldiers can go back "at once" to the United States !. The Jan. 27 issue of U.S. News and World Report *made no bones of what was behind such calculations : Washington and Saigon alike wanted to placate U.S. public opinion which is vigorously challenging the war, they also wanted to lead the average American to suppose that the Saigon regime has made enough progress to allow some reduction of American forces and to warrant at the same time a continued support from the United States. Thus, the* U.S. News and World Report *told us, the adoption of a new military strategy in Viet Nam with a curtailed Expeditionary Corps would keep down casualties and consequently ease the political pressure which is now assailing Nixon for the repatriation of American troops. And taking advantage of such conditions, U.S. neo-colonialist aggression would be made to go on in South Viet Nam !*

What is written above may throw some light on the stubbornness with which Henry Cabot Lodge has been so far refusing to give any sign of good faith at the Paris quadripartite Conference which has set as its objective a political settlement of the Viet Nam issue. The origin of the Viet Nam war being U.S. imperialist aggression and commitment of U.S. and satellite troops to South Viet Nam, its settlement can only be provided by the cessation of this aggression and the complete and unconditional withdrawal of these troops. That is the gist of the DRVN four points and the NFL five points. However, since the American imperialists have not given up their dark designs to cling to South Viet Nam, their representative at the Paris negociations has been exerting all efforts to shirk such a logical conclusion. While the puppet envoy from Saigon was ordered to distort the truth, heap slanders on the Vietnamese people's national resistance to aggression and picture the US imperialist and their henchmen as "defenders of freedom and independence", Henry Cabot Lodge has been eluding the problems related to the origin of the war by calling for "looking ahead" and a peace "based upon agreements as to the future rather than polemics concerning the past". He split the Viet Nam issue into specific problems and proposed to put to discussion at the conference such items as the "restoration of the DMZ" and the "mutual withdrawal" of troops from South Viet Nam. In spite of firm opposition from the DRVN and NFL representatives, he harped again and again on the same tunes at every plenary session, showing to what extent the new Nixon administration could be obstinate and hypocritical.

It will not be ruled out that the partial and "unilateral" withdrawal of American troops from South Viet Nam which is now up the sleeves of the White House and the Pentagon,

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U.S. WAR ACTS AGAINST NORTH VIET NAM

in February 1969 First Fortnight

IN the first fortnight of February 1969 the U.S. aggressors continued to infringe upon the sovereignty and threaten the security of the DRVN and to commit fresh crimes against the people, says a communique of the commission for investigation of the U.S. imperialists' war crimes in Viet Nam.

Manned and robot spy planes made over 300 sorties in more than 200 violations of the DRVN air space.

According to preliminary reports, Hanoi's air space was violated twice, Hai Phong's 6 times, Nghe An's 5 times, Ha Tinh's 30 times, Quang Binh's 55 times, Vinh Linh's 60 times.

The U.S. aggressors also used bombers and long range guns against populated areas in Quang Binh province and Vinh Linh area.

— In Quang Binh, U.S. planes dropped on February 10, 1969 at 15.50 hours bombs on a locality of Minh Hoa district and on February 12, 1969, 2 groups of B.52s carpet bombed a locality of Tuyen Hoa district, destroying numerous houses and much private property.

— In Vinh Linh U.S. planes and guns from Ben Hai south bank continuously pounded villages in the northern part of the DMZ, on February 2, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 15.

On February 4, 1969 at 11 hours, a L.19 fired many rounds of smoke shells on Tan Trai hamlet (Vinh Thanh village). On February 11 and 12 enemy guns slammed 16 cannon shells into Tiên Son, Tiên Giang and Kim Giang hamlets (Vinh Son village). On February 14, at 12 hours, a group of OV.10As pumped 5 rounds of rockets into Tien An hamlet (Vinh Son village). On the same day at 14 hours 5 armed helicopters and a OV.10A rocketed Cu Bai area (Vinh Son village), killing one person, burning numerous houses and much private property. Meeting U.S. war acts with an inflinching resolve, the people and army of North Viet nam, in the first 15 days of February 1969, shot down 5 U.S. planes, bringing the total number of U.S. planes downed in North Viet Nam from August 5, 1964 to February 15, 1969 to 3,265.

U.S.-Puppet Troops Break Tet Truce

THE South Viet Nam NFL order to suspend military actions during the Tet Festival come into force from 6 a.m., Feb. 15, 1969 to 6 a.m. Feb 22, 1969.

In many provinces of South Viet Nam local people on visits to relations or engaged in shopping or preparation for the Tet were attacked by GIs and puppet troops. Among cases of violation of the cease-fire order were the raids in the districts of Chau Thanh, Cai Lay, Cho Gao and Cai Be, My Tho province, the onslaughts on arroyos and canals on Feb. 15 and 16 and the bombings by B. 52's on Tan Uyen district, Thu Dau mot province.

On Feb. 16, during the Saigon puppet administration's announced suspension of operations from 6 p.m. Feb. 16 to 6 p.m. Feb. 17, 1969, in Kien Tuong province, from Feb. 15 to 17, the enemy fired rockets on Binh Phong Thanh and Binh Hoa villages, Tuyen Nhon district, and indulged in looting operations north of the Western Vam Co river, which caused heavy losses to the people. On Feb. 16, at 8.p.m. B.52s showered bombs on the western area of Thua Thien province and throughout that night on many mountain regions in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces. Meanwhile, many battalions of U.S. Marine Regiment 9 raided the region since Feb. 15. The PLAF had to punish the command of that regiment on the morning of Feb. 17, 1969.

VIET NAM PARIS CONFERENCE HOLDS FOURTH AND FIFTH FULL SESSIONS

THE Paris Conference on Viet Nam showed no sign of progress at its fourth and fifth plenary sessions hold respectively on Feb. 13 and 20, as a result of the U.S. and Saigon administration representatives' obstinacy.

Washington's envoy H. Cabot Lodge reiterated professions of U.S. respect for the 1954 Geneva Agreements and for the Vietnamese people's national rights. He strove to furbish the image of the Saigon puppet administration by asserting that it was "legal" and had achieved "much progress". He again put forward his proposals, which had been flatly rejected by the DRVN and NFL delegations, on the "restoration of the DMZ", "mutual withdrawal of troops" and "exchange of POWs."

The representative of the Saigon administration Pham Dang Lam, backing his boss's proposals, again slanderously charged the DRVN with "aggression" against South Viet Nam and "violation" of Laos' and Cambodia's neutrality. He also lamely pleaded for the brutal and rotten regime of the puppets in Saigon.

The head of the NFL delegation Tran Buu Kiem denounced the obstacles raised at the Paris conference by the U.S. and the Saigon administration and their absurd allegations which screened the continuation of the aggressive war in South Viet Nam.

He dismissed the American claim that the U.S. had come to South Viet Nam to help its people exert their "right to self determination", as in fact it sent its aggressive troops there to massacre civilians and poured millions of tons of bombs and toxic chemicals on South Viet Nam territory. The U.S. Defence Secretary made no bones on Feb. 6 of his intention to "bring pressure to bear" on the Paris conference by carrying on sweeps and terrorist acts in South Viet Nam. As regards the Saigon administration, it left no stone unturned to abet and aid the U.S. aggressive war, suppressing all democratic rights and freedoms of the urban people still under its control and indulging in mass arrests as the Tet was drawing near. This has triggered off an impetuous popular movement in South Viet Nam, especially in the cities, for the removal of the Thieu-Ky-Huong triumvirate and its replacement by a peace cabinet prepared to enter into negotiations in good faith at the Paris Conference.

Dealing with the so-called concrete proposals of the U.S. delegation, the NFL delegate pointed out that these only served as a camouflage for U.S. neo-colonialism, for the illegal maintenance of U.S. troops in South Viet Nam, of the puppet regime in Saigon and of the partition of Viet Nam.

Highlighting the NFL's great role and remarkable successes, he once again refered to its five points as a basis for any sound solution to the South Viet Nam problem. These five points, he recalled, were an end to U.S. aggression, unconditional withdrawal from Viet Nam of U.S. and satellite troops, removal of U.S. military bases, and the right of the South Vietnamese people to settle their own affairs in accordance with the NFL Political Programme without any external interference. The Americans should give proof of their good faith by matching deeds with their words about peace. They should withdraw their troops from South Viet Nam without any condition whatsoever.

Minister Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN delegation, denounced the U.S. imperialists' past flagrant breaks of the 1954 Geneva Agreements and their present perversion of the spirit and content of the same agreements which they are forced to reckon with and of which they only use some short-term clauses concerning the cessation of hostilities to further their neo-colonialists designs.

The DRVN representative made it clear that for years now, the United States had been pursuing a neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam. At the start, they installed the puppet administration of Ngo Dinh Diem whom they helped with economic and military "aid" and "advisers". Once those methods of camouflaged domination ceased to take in the South Vietnamese people, they unleashed their "special war" to check the popular movement in south Viet Nam and to draw experiences for the suppression of the national liberation movement in other countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America as well. As their "special war" was also defeated, they had to revert to classical methods of colonialism by committing their own troops to South Viet Nam for a direct aggression and by carrying out an air war of destruction against the DRVN. But the Vietnamese people as a whole victoriously resisted U.S. aggression and compelled the aggressors to accept the Paris quadripartite conference. Nevertheless, the peace negotiations are being used by the Americans to continue their attempt at implementing neo-colonialism: they persisted in shirking the fundamental issue, which is the cessation of their own aggression, and refused to talk in earnest with the NFL as the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people. That is why the Paris Conference could not make any headway.

Mr. Xuan Thuy strongly backed Mr. Tran Buu Kiem's arguments and stressed that only the unconditional withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam would make possible a solution to the Viet Nam issue, the realization of the South Vietnamese people's sacred rights, the settlement by the South Vietnamese of their own affairs and the peaceful reunification of Viet Nam.

Total and Unconditional...

(Continued from page 1)

will be presented one day to the Paris Conference as a token of U.S. "good will": this alternative has been suggested by some American officials, as revealed by the Western press.

If such is the case, a manoeuvre similar to U.S. "limited bombing" of North Viet Nam will repeat itself, and an act which is per se a result of American setbacks will be labelled a "sign of good will" and a "move towards peace". It its common knowledge that U.S. "limited bombing" was a perfidious scheme since it permitted a concentration of attacks against a smaller area. No less perfidious will be the partial withdrawal of U.S. troops in implementation of Washington's new strategy.

However, the course of history being irreversible, the limitation of bombing led to the complete and unilateral cessation of all bombardments against the DRVN. A run-down of GI's in South Viet Nam will likewise result in their complete and unconditional withdrawal, whether Nixon and Cabot Lodge like it or not.

In the first case as well as in the second, the decisive factor remains the victorious struggle of the Vietnamese people who are strongly backed in this respect by militant public opinion in the United States and the world.

THE NORTH — GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

ACHIEVEMENTS IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

NGUYEN VAN THAO

Deputy Head, Board of Industry, Prime Minister's Office

LAST year, carrying on the readjustment of economy to the war conditions to meet the requirements of the fighting, production and the people's life to the highest degree to ultimately foil U.S aggression, North Viet Nam won great success on the industrial production front.

In view of the devastation done to most of the industrial areas, one might expect that our industrial production would go down. On the contrary, thanks to an effective civil defence and timely dispersion, and especially to our cadres and workers' readiness to "fight when the enemy comes and resume production when he goes", we overcame many difficulties and kept production going smoothly. Beside centrally-run industry, local industry also made encouraging progress. Beside old industrial units (now dispersed, there are many new ones. The enterprises set up in 1968 nearly equalled those established in 1966-1967. All of them were grouped into industrial networks catering for various industrial areas. This gave a new look to North Viet Nam economic structure. For instance: apart from major coal-mining areas, we began exploiting over ten others which supply on the spot more kinds of coal for a more rational use of fuel. In addition to existing power plants, there came into being a lot of small and medium power-stations and hydroelectric stations in the mountain regions: thus, not counting the central power network, there are many local power systems catering for most important production bases and serving as reserve power generating outfits. From a number of engineering plants grouped in complexes we now have centrally-run especialized enterprises coupled with a vast network of local ones from district down to village level. Other industrial branches such as weaving, papermaking, food-processing... also have ramifications in the localities.

Last year, the revolutionary impetus in the "fulfil two quotas", "to reach three peaks", "to turn out an extra 10 million metres of cloth for our kith-and-kin Southern compatriots" emulation movements, fired all cadres and workers into devising tens of thousands of innovations to improve technique and rationalize production. This explains why the key branches of centrally run industry kept on developing. Labour productivity rose. The value of general output markedly increased compared with 1967. Power was up by 30 per cent, the number of State enterprises in the localities by 13 per cent. Despite some difficulties due to dispersion, many technical norms were maintained. In heavy industry price cost decreased by 9 per cent in comparison with the plan.

What was most striking was that the orientation of industry was clearly defined and its influence on the various branches of economy was brought into full play. As regards heavy industry, stress was laid upon the requirements first of the fighting, then of the building of local industry (over three times), and of agriculture (32 per cent of the general output). Concerning local industry, still greater attention was paid to supplying agriculture and the people's life. In Thai Binh, Thanh Hoa, Ha Bac and Haiphong provinces the value of output for agriculture rose from 1.5 to 2 times as compared with the 1967 figures. Daily necessities for the people also increased: over 1 million metres of cloth were turned out more than in 1967.

Moreover, much progress was recorded in the management and training of cadres and workers, as well as in the preparations for a rapid development when conditions permit.

The growth of our industry in the midst of war testifies to the soundness of our Party and Government's lines of industrial construction in particular and of economic construction and development in general. Last year's achievement of our industry have strengthened the potential of our "great rear base" in its common endeavour with our "great front line" to resist U.S. aggression.

NORTH VIET NAM

Up to February 21, 1969, the U.S. lost in North Viet Nam

3,266 planes

A Volunteer Sets Off

IT was already late at night. Everybody had gone to bed but was not asleep yet. There was a call outside. Madam Re hurriedly got on to her feet and answered.

Mr. Re returned home, chilled to the bone. His lips were also so stiff with cold that he could hardly utter a word. Full of joy, Chiem flung off his blanket and rose up to light the lamp "Have you eaten anything? What kept you so late?", Mme Re affectionately asked her husband.

"I've had my meal at the construction site. I rode home when the meeting was over. I decided to get back though it was getting late. The boy will be off early to-morrow, won't he?

"Have some tea before going to bed. The boy must have some sleep himself. He should be in good shape when he goes. He must spare his strength for the trip will be exacting. He certainly won't like to be declared unfit."

"Sleep? well, he can sleep any time. Don't you think he can't have a good sleep when in the recruit camp. Tonight let father and son have talk. I've come home just for a good heart-to-heart."

Mr. Re took off his winter cap and his padded coat, emptied the cup of hot tea his wife gave him then said to Chiem, "Now let's turn in".

To-night for the first time after quite a long, long time one did not know since when, the two men shared a bed again. After ensconcing himself, Mr. Re asked his son, "Well, sonny, do you still have anything on your mind you want to get rid of before you set off?"

"No Dad. I'm delighted to go though I'll miss Mother awfully".

Van Giang district (Hai Hung province) joyfully enroll youths in the People's Army.

"Your mother only? Anybody else?

"Also you and my younger sister Mua, of course."

"I only want to know whether you are in love with any girl.. ?"

"Oh, no, Dad."

Come, come, tell me the truth" the father insisted, "I know. That young girl I can only agree with you that she is a nice one. She is first in the village as to hard working. She is secretary of the Youth Committee and deputy political instructor of the village militia."

"We're just friends", Chiem stammered. "I really don't want to be burdened with a wife and children. I want to be completely free."

As you like. If that is what you think best there's no reason why I should object. Now let's speak about something else."

Dinh Cong Re was a veteran combatant. He joined the Revolution when it was still under ground. Several decades of hard struggle, full of risks left our old man in pretty poor health — liver ailment, rheumatism, high blood pressure, neurasthenia, etc... Even though, as a member of the district Party committee in charge of hydraulics and dykes his zeal and ardour was matched by no young man's. To-night it was the first candid conversation he ever had with his son and he wanted to tell him who was going up something. Something which was of importance to him. In a low, eager and serious tone, he said to his only son:

"I regret that I'm no longer a young man and that I have not enough strength left to go and fight. I'm too old, too old."

He heaved a sigh.

"Anyhow" he went on, "I lived the most exciting days when I was young. Those were valiant days indeed! Each day was worth 20 years. When I was your age, with a submachinegun, from the top of Mount Than Lan, I shouted "Forward" and led a company of guerillas to strike into the formation of an enemy regiment. I rushed into action with the force of a tiger. The enemy encircled

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LANDMARKS IN SOUTH VIET NAM PLAF POWERFUL GROWTH

● **Feb. 15, 1961**: Merging of all armed units into the People's Liberation Armed Forces, a component of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

● **Jan.2, 1963 : Ap bac victory (My Tho)**

A big operation launched by 2,000 G.I.s and puppet troops was foiled with 450 enemy soldiers put out of action, 8 choppers downed and 3 M. 113 armoured cars burnt, which **setback was a portend of the failure of the "heliborne" and "armour-borne" tactics of the puppet army placed under the command of U.S. advisers.** The Ap Bac victory testified to the great capability of the regular army, regional troops and guerillas in the foiling of "sweeps", wiping out the enemy and implementing their central tasks in that period.

Ap Bac was deservedly cited by the South Viet Nam NFL as "standard-bearer of the emulation drive launched among all the armed forces in 1963".

● **Between Dec. 5, 1964 and January 3, 1965 : Binh Gia victory (Ba Ria).**

This was the first long battle against enemy's reinforcements in which over 1,000 adverse troops (46 G.I.s) were put out of action, 185 others captured, 37 planes and helicopters downed, a squadron of M. 113 (13 vehicles) written off. Worth mentioning was the wiping out of puppet Marine Battalion 4 and puppet Ranger Battalion 33.

The exploit illustrated the ability to mount large-scale mobile warfare actions of the P.L.A.F. and was a curtain riser for the eventual powerful military attacks of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people.

May 29-31, 1965 : Ba Gia Victory (Quang Ngai).

Four puppet battalions were wiped out. It was the *first time that a whole multi-battalion size unit was put out of action which foreboded the puppet army's imminent total collapse.*

The U.S. imperialists seized with panic hurriedly threw masses of U.S. forces into the South Viet Nam conflict. On June 8, 1965, Johnson officially committed the U.S. expeditionary forces directly to stave off the puppet army's disintegration.

May 27, 1967: Nui Thanh Victory (Quang Nam).

In this battle a U.S. Marine company was wiped out with bayonets and hand grenades; The Nui Thanh victory gave a strong fillip to the anti-Yank fight of the South Viet Nam army and people. The unit responsible for the successful operation received from the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee a banner for its *"feat, first of its kind, of wiping out a whole combat"*.

August 18-19, 1965 : Van Tuong Victory (Quang Ngai)

A 3,000-strong American force of the U.S. Navy, Air and Land Forces was put out action at Van Tuong, a narrow strip in Binh son district : 1,800 G.I. casualties, 22 tanks and armoured cars burnt, 23 planes and helicopters brought down. *This achievement evidenced the capability of the PLAF of foiling large-scale operations of the U.S. expeditionary troops and at the same time their "heliborne tactic" and "armour borne tactic".*

November 12, 1965: Bau Bang Victory (Thu Dau Mot)

In three hours, two US infantry battalions were put out of action, 39 tanks and armoured cars and an artillery company of U.S. Infantry Division 1 were wiped out. *This performance highlighted the PLAF initiative in the offensive and their capability of attaching a whole American column before it could do any harm; it contributed to the frustration of the U.S. first dry season strategic counter-offensive.*

Between Feb. 2, 1967 and April 13, 1967: Tay Ninh victory : Foiling of operation Junction City :

An over two-month long operation launched by a U.S. corps army unit (45,000 men)came to a flop : 14,000 soldiers, most of them G.I.s, were wiped out, 1,000 military vehicles, including 80r tanks and armoured cars, destroyed, and 167 planes and choppers downed. *This fruitful counteraction showed the capability of the PLAF of wiping out an entire U.S. army-corps sized unit engaged in a long drawn-out operation;* it contributed to the failure of the U.S. second dry-season counter-offensive. The latter was the last one launched by an army corps sized unit of the U.S. army before general offensives and concerted uprisings of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, who compelled the enemy to fall back upon the defensive and to switch over from "search-and-destroy" and "pacification" raids to "hold-and-clear" sweeps.

Night of April 8, 1967 : Quang Tri town, La Vang and Tu Ha victories.

In the same night the PLAF of Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, simultaneously attacked many enemy bases built deep behind his lines on a front many dozens kilometres long: 1,828 enemy soldiers (including 2 regimental commands, one battalion and 9 companies) were wiped out and 200 armoured cars destroyed; *this indicated a new advance in the PLAF technique of launching surprise attacks with small units to secure big gains and at the same time made it possible for the PLAF to storm enemy bases and turn the enemy rear into PLAF front-line.*

October and November 1967 : Loc Ninh and Dak To victories.

These were resounding victories won in the early days of the dry-season. The Binh Long PLAF fought unremittingly for ten days and wiped out 4 enemy battalions and 10 adverse companies in the Loc Ninh region. The Kontum armed forces, battling for 19 days running (from November 3 to 22), wiped out over 4,000 enemy soldiers, including 2 U.S. airborne battalions, badly mauled Brigade 1 of U.S. Division 4 and a puppet multi-battalion sized unit, *put out of action Para Brigade 173, a crack unit of the U.S. mobile combat forces. The Loc Ninh and Dak To victories attested to the great punch and imagination in combat of the PLAF who could lure out and encircle the enemy and wipe out large units at a time when he had shifted over into the defensive.*

Strategic surprise attack in spring of Mau Than (Monkey) lunar year, and great victories in Hue, Saigon, Khe Sanh, Tay Ninh in 1968.

This was a strategic attack unprecedented in world military history. The PLAF simultaneously stormed almost all the cities and towns, military sectors and district capitals in South Viet Nam, which took the Yankees completely unawares : in the first thirty days alone, the patriotic forces put out of action 90,000 enemy troops (20,000 G.I.s) disbanded hundreds of thousands of puppet soldiers, destroyed half of the logistic reserve force of the enemy, which *daring deed shed light on the high standard of organization and command and the deep sense of discipline of the PLAF.*

February and May 1968 : Hue and Saigon victories

They brought to light the capability of the PLAF of sustained fighting in urban centres, their capacity of wiping out numerous puppet troops and officials such as in Hue, punishing top reactionaries as in Saigon, putting out of action whole battalions of U.S. and puppet troops even in the streets. Although Saigon was strongly defended by about 100 battalions of puppet and U.S. troops, the PLAF were able to break through their line and co-ordinate actions with friendly forces inside the city to assault the enemy right in his refuge.

Between January 21 and July 12, 1968 : Khe Sanh victory

It demonstrated the capability of the PLAF of incircling the U.S. defence system for a long time. Under showers of bombs and shells, the PLAF, during 170 days and nights, tightened their noose around the fortress, immobilized about 10,000 U.S. Marines at Ta Con and pinned down 40,000 American mobile troops, wiped out 17,000 GIs and forced them out of Khe Sanh in spite of U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff written pledge to Johnson to hold Khe Sanh at any cost.

Between August 18 and September 21, 1968 : Tay Ninh victory

In this operation the enemy suffered 14,000 casualties, mostly GIs, and lost 15 battalions and 45 companies wiped out, which achievement illuminated the PLAF growing destructive power in annihilition attacks, especially in repeated assaults on U.S. bases of support and on sections of supply and transport routes. The Tay Ninh victory spelled out the nature of relentless offensive of the South Viet Nam people and armed forces and the dismal failure of the U.S. "hold-and-clear" strategy.

Back from a victorious battle

SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES OBSERVE 8th MERGING ANNIVERSARY

FEB. 15, 1961, marked an important development of the South Viet Nam revolution. On that day, as the situation called for a step-up of armed activities, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, right after it came into being (Dec.20, 1960), merges various armed units into the People's Liberation Armed Forces comprising three kinds of people's armed forces which were solidly organized and whose command was centralized at all levels. Under the glorious banner of the Front, the People's Liberation Armed Forces have grown up fast in all respects into a really invincible people's army.

Since their merger, the PLAF have travelled a long historic path of resounding victories. They have defeated the "special war" of the American aggressors and dealt deadly blows at the various strategic plans of their "limited war" waged by 1,200,000 troops, including over half a million GI's.

In Spring 1968, together with the people, they brought the South Viet Nam revolution to a new stage—that of the earth - shaking general offensives and widespread uprisings. The PLAF are stronger now with a new strategic position, renewed strength, new fighting methods and new possibilities, they are driving the enemy into a position of strategic defensive throughout South Viet Nam and heralding their inevitable defeat in a near future.

ON the occasion of the 8th merging anniversary of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces, the Presidium of the CC of the NFL on Jan. 20, decided to award the PLAF the Fatherland Order, the highest decoration of South Viet Nam. Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho has, in the name of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, sent a letter to all the officers and men of the PLAF congratulating them on their successes and exhorting them to close even more tightly their ranks and strengthen their unity with the people, to bring into full play the victorious fighting tradition of the PLAF and carry on the fight under all forms, on all fronts, in all areas, so as to wipe out the puppet army, topple the puppet administration, break the U.S. imperialists' aggressive will and recover political power all over South Viet Nam.

On Feb. 13, somewhere in the liberated areas of South Viet Nam, a grand ceremony to commemorate the PLAF merging anniversary was held in presence of representatives of various arms, heroes and outstanding fighters of the PLAF, representatives of administrative organs of the NFL and of mass organizations.

IN North Viet Nam, a solemn meeting was staged in Hanoi on the same occasion in the evening of Feb. 13, with the participation of representatives of the Fatherland Front, the Permanent Representation of the NFL in Hanoi, the People's Army, political parties, various nationalities and religions, mass organizations and liaison committees of South Vietnamese regrouped in the North.

General Vo Nguyen Giap, DRVN Defence Minister, sent warm congratulations to the command of the South Viet Nam PLAF on the occasion.

HOW WE TOOK PART IN THE GENERAL OFFENSIVE

(Report by an NFL woman militant from Quang Nam province on the events taking place in village H. during the 1968 Tet).

NO sonner had the sun set behind the Phuoc Tuong range than thousands of people rushed out of their hamlets and gathered in my village, waiting for the Front order to march on Da Nang. They thronged the fields. Old and young, male and female, all of them carried rice cakes on their backs and spears or sticks in their hands. Wielding a sharp scimitar, an old man of about sixty said : "How eagerly I have been longing for this day throughout the years of ruthless oppression! My whole family is turning out to fight the Yankees and the puppets."

At six-thirty p.m. the people turned toward Da Nang, raised their weapons and shouted their pledges :

"Liberate the fatherland at any cost!"

"March constantly forward!"

This was on the eve of the Tet. Despite the cold wind we were boiling with hatred and fired by enthusiasm, throwing on each other's heels in the pitch darkness the people overcame thick brushes, barbed wire fences and penetrated into the enemy's defence lines. Ahead of them, flares lit up the sky and cannons beat time. By midnight, we reached river X, where hundred of sampans were waiting for us. Hardly had we come aboard, when PLAF big guns began to roar, drawing a line of fire at the U.S.-puppet bases. Soon Nuoc Man airfield was hit ablaze.

No sooner had we crossed the river than four armed helicopters flew in, directing their searchlights and their fire at the sand beaches along the stream. Then enemy guns from nearby posts poured in a deluge of steel. However the people managed to keep out of harm's way and maintain their formations. Each time the lights had swept past in another direction, they moved steps further toward their regroupment base in village T.

In the small hours of the first day of Tet when the sun had just emerged from the sea, the insurgents overflooded village T. The puppet garrison—a platoon—rapidly threw in its lot with the revolution.

At six-thirty a.m. the order to attack came : the people were by then ready to enter Da Nang. Holding aloft a flag of the Front, Mrs. S. led the march, followed by the armed insurrectional unit of the masses, bristling with spears and sticks. A difficulty cropped up : the hundred-odd sampans due to ferry this army across the wide river had been sunk by enemy artillery and aviation early this morning. Fortunately, on the other bank of the stream there were 20 motor barges and about 70 sampans. Immediately, the "propaganda among adverse troops" group waved the flag and called through megaphones : "Fellow countrymen! bring over the barges and the sampans here to help us across the river! The knell has tolled for the U.S. aggressors and their stooges. Rise up and wrest back power for the people".

Upon hearing this, people on the other bank of the river gathered in force and prepared their boats. Meanwhile, enemy sentries climbed on to their blockhouse to fire at us, but impressed by the trampling throngs they took to flight.

My fellow villagers began the crossing. Scarcely had two-thirds gone through when enemy cannons from post X, blazed away at the landing stage and enemy planes strafed and dropped napalm bombs. It was hell broken loose.

"Let's capture post X. to open the way for our troops" ordered the commander. The remaining third of us marched on the post and took it in no time.

Across the river, the enemy in post M. laid down a heavy barrage. Our propaganda group went into action while the masses closed in. As a light machine-gun kept on spitting fire a woman rushed up and lifted up its barrel and the people trampling down the barbed wire fence and in next to no time overran the position.

(Continued page 7)

Spring '69

Joyfully, 1968 rolled by,
Like an express loaded with bouquets of victories,
Flowers of Viet Nam, blossoming in all seasons.
How wonderful! Where the fire of napalm
Burns forests bald and chars paddy grains,
There also is the green land of life.
And greenest of all is hope.
Where gaping craters cry out anger and hatred.
Smiling lips sing odes of love.
Where Death tries to force men to bow in shame.
There is the land of the free and dauntless,
Standing up and knowing their strength to be infinite.

★

How magnificent, our gallant struggle these days,
When our people keep pace with the times,
When past and future are mirrored in the present.
When every day we live is spring.
And every man a Liberation soldier.
We attack, with the miraculous strength
Of Phan Hanh Sons storming Mount Ngu Hanh*
And cutting down Yankee aggressors.
How grateful we are to the inventor
Of this splendid word : Fighter!
In the twentieth century it proudly resounds,
The golden yardstick measuring all values.
The South! The South! In my heart,
The word shines, like a silent sun.

★

The North smiles,
The sounds of bombs have stopped.
Factories hum, white smoke rises,
Bridges are built anew, bends straightened,
Convoys roll, endless,
Lush grows sweet potato on filled-up craters,
Beside bomb shelters, new huts, where fires glow,
The gunners are awake,
For there is yet only half cause for joy,
And we think with melancholy
Of those who left in the blue mist.
O beloved South, what dream haunts the great front,
For Uncle's appeal to stir the land?

★

A cold wind heralds the new season,
The sun shines over the marching column.
Men clearing the way for spring!
O gorgeous spring decked with the gold of apricot blossoms!
Bloom early to adorn this land
Red with the blood of sacrifice,
And ringing with the finest exploits.
We've grown mature. No use to wait
Till to-morrow.
Since yesterday, at every turn
We've won. Step by step
The enemy has retreated.
Let's attack, strike hard, rush forward!
Let towns and cities, villages and hamlets rise,
To wrest back the native land, win back souls,
So that complete triumph may come
To the Fatherland, to every man.

January 15, 1969

TO HUU

(Translated from the Vietnamese by DTB)

* *Phan Hanh Son*: an elite fighter of the PLAF, credited with having put out of action more than 400 enemy troops, and twenty eight times awarded the title "Valiant anti-U.S. Fighter".

News from LAOS

1,000 U.S AIRCRAFT DESTROYED SINCE MAY 1964

THE Lao people and armed forces in Xieng Khoang Province remarkably shot down on January 22 the 1000th U.S. aircraft since May 17, 1964, date of the first U.S. air strike against Laos liberated areas.

The U.S. has been using modern jet planes of different types including B52s to bomb the liberated areas from Northern to Southern Laos, but as in Viet Nam, the hunt for U.S. air pirates in Laos has become a national sport in which the A-A and main force units, the regional, militia and guerilla forces have recorded outstanding achievements. 348 planes have been downed by infantry guns, and 44 by guerillas.

Over the past months, after its forced unconditional halt of all bombardments against the DRVN, the U.S. has been intensifying its war of destruction in the liberated areas of Laos. As was rightly pointed out by the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front, these frenzied acts are last-ditch efforts exerted by the U.S. in an attempt to check the development of the Lao people's patriotic struggle and to maintain and strengthen the U.S. political and military position in Laos and defend its military bases in Thailand.

However, bombs, shells, toxic chemicals and any other kind of up-to-date weapons of the U.S. cannot break the will of the Lao armed forces and people to fight for independence and freedom. Along with the destruction of 1,000 U.S. aircraft, the Lao armed forces and people have put out of action more than 70,000 enemy troops, and have obtained splendid results of historic significance in building and consolidating the liberated areas.

The Vietnamese people warmly hail the successes of the Lao armed forces and people in their fight against U.S. imperialism, the common enemy to both Vietnamese and Lao peoples.

FULL SUPPORT TO G.D.R.

PRESIDENTIAL elections have been planned by the Bonn government in West Berlin for March 5. The G.D.R. Government has consequently put a ban on the West German M.P.s trips into West Berlin by ground and water ways across the G.D.R. to this effect.

The Vietnamese people fully support the measure.

West Berlin is a political entity entirely independent from Bonn's domination, which lies deep in the G.D.R. territory and very far from the West German border. Why should more than 1,000 West German M.P.s including members of the new fascist party NPD take the trouble to go there to elect their President? This is understandable only when one traces this act back to the scheme long hatched by the West German militarists to gradually nibble at West Berlin and integrate it into West Germany.

Since 1968, Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger and other bosses of the West German administration have come to West Berlin to hold meeting of Parliament sub-committees or to sponsor provocative gatherings. The coming presidential elections are the climax of a long-drawn provocative campaign in West Berlin, which is part of the over-all policy of the West German imperialists to claim for the monopoly to represent the whole of Germany, annexation of the G.D.R. and revision of the European countries borders already delineated after World War II. These moves are closely associated with the Bonn authorities' insistence on the strengthening of the N.A.T.O., and with the recent promotion of the plan to prepare for an atomic, chemical and bacteriological war which has recently been exposed by many West German scientists.

The Kiesinger clique would not have been able to carry out illegal activities in West Berlin without the approval and support of the United States, Britain and France. U.S. President Nixon in particular has shown his sympathy with them. Not long after he came to power, U.S. troops staged big war games in West Germany, close to the borders of the socialist countries. Nixon has also decided to visit West Berlin just a few days before the illegal presidential elections there. Such steps obviously help the West German provocateurs, encourage the NPD new fascists now ruling the roost in West Berlin, and constitute an overt support to the expansionist and aggressive policy of West German imperialism against the socialist countries.

On Feb. 19, DRVN Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh handed the GDR chargé d'affaires a statement saying, "The Vietnamese people and the DRVN Government strongly condemns the Kiesinger Administration's progressive infringements upon West Berlin and continual threats to the German Democratic Republic. They express their total sympathy with, and firm support to, the just position and legitimate measures taken by the GDR Government to safeguard the sovereignty and security of its territory".

The whole world sides with us

ALL FOR THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S VICTORY

USSR — SOUTH YEMEN

"THE Soviet Union and the People's Republic of South Yemen express their fraternal solidarity with the heroic struggle of the South Vietnamese people and consider that the complete withdrawal of troops of the USA and its aggressive allies from South Viet Nam, and the ending of all foreign interference in this area constitute the essential condition for the Vietnamese people to shape their destiny and solve their own affairs by themselves", says the joint communiqué between the USSR and South Yemen published on Feb. 10, 1969 on the occasion of the visit by the President of the People's Republic of South Yemen Gahtan Mohamed Al Shaabi to the Soviet Union.

GDR

THE Foreign Ministry of the German Democratic Republic has issued a statement warmly greeting the South Viet Nam NFL delegation which participates in the Paris quadripartite Conference as an independent and equal partner. The statement goes on: "The GDR fully supports the five points of the South Viet Nam NFL and the statement by Minister Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN delegation, stressing that the deep root and the immediate cause of the present situation in Viet Nam lie in U.S. aggression, and consequently any political solution to the Vietnamese problem must be based on the cessation of the U.S. aggression and recognition by the U.S.A. of the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people."

POLAND

A meeting of solidarity with the Vietnamese people was organized by the People's Unity Front and the General Department of Telecommunications in Warsaw on Feb. 7, 1969.

The resolution passed by the participants reads among other things: "We thoroughly back the heroic South Vietnamese people and firmly support their struggle for independence and freedom. We fully agree with the South Viet Nam NFL Political Programme and the positions of the NFL and DRVN delegations to the Paris Conference. We severely condemn the barbarous acts of the U.S. imperialists, and their lackeys who step up the war in South Viet Nam and seek every means to sabotage the Paris Conference."

BURUNDI

DURING his stay in Dar-Es-Salaam, capital of Tanzania, where he attended the Conference of Foreign Ministers of 14 countries of Eastern and Central Africa, Lazare Ntawushira, Foreign Minister of Burundi, has declared that the war waged by the United States in Viet Nam is an unjust war. "The Burundi Government and people," he pointed out, "unswervingly side with the Vietnamese people and wholly support the position of the DRVN Government and the sensible solutions put forward by the South Viet Nam NFL at the Paris quadripartite Conference."

FINLAND

OVER 2,000 people held a meeting of solidarity with Viet Nam in Helsinki on Feb. 9, 1969.

R. Chandra, Secretary General of the World Peace Council, stated:

"The Vietnamese people struggle not only for their own interests, but also for the whole of mankind. The successes won by them belong to all peoples now fighting for national independence and peace, against imperialism and old and new colonialism.

"We must make of 1969 a year of international mobilization of forces for the defence of peace, a year that witnesses the ending of the war in Viet Nam and an unprecedented uprush of the struggle for peace in the world."

FRANCE

UNDER the slogan "the Haute Savoie people stand shoulder to shoulder with the Vietnamese", the Peace Movement and many mass organizations of Haute Savoie observed a Day of Solidarity with Viet Nam in Annecy on Feb. 7, 1969. Several teach-ins were staged during which the audience discussed the situation in Viet Nam and the measures to be taken in order to further denounce the U.S. imperialists and increase material assistance to the Vietnamese people.

GREAT BRITAIN

IN the course of a protest meeting against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam recently convened in Glasgow, L. Daly, Secretary General of the Scottish Miners' Trade Union called on the British people to step up their support to the Vietnamese people. He also demanded that the British Government stop at once its countenance of American aggression in Viet Nam, and invited the British workers to take an active part in the march in support of Viet Nam due to take place in London on March 16.

Dr. Spock Favours Movement Against U.S. War in Viet Nam

"MEN who refused to go to Viet Nam and kill and be killed are in their rights according to the Nuremberg principles", said well-known American Baby Doctor Benjamin Spock on Feb. 14 at a University symposium in Kansas city, *AP* reported.

Dr. Spock who last year counselled American youths against the draft — for which he was arbitrarily convicted — said men have the right to refuse to submit to the selective service. He added that the decision at Nuremberg by allied judges condemned German and Japanese warlords for not acting on the dictates of their conscience.

Saigon: Cross-Section...

(*Continued from page 8*)

resolve to achieve unity in the action for an end to the war and the restoration of peace and against all brutal measures to suppress the people's movement for peace.

The participants in the sit-in unanimously called on all genuinely patriotic nationalists to rise up and create a force for the struggle, and to convene a national congress of genuine representatives of various segments of the people to map out concrete steps for an early ending of the war and rapid restoration of peace.

ACCORDING to foreign news reports, greatly alarmed by the mounting movement of people of all walks of life in Saigon, the Thieu-Ky-Huong triumvirate has taken measures to counter it. Terror and repression have been directed against any person or organization suspected of working for peace and of communist inclination.

A Feb. 15 AFP dispatch reported that at a police HQ in Saigon, puppet chieftain Nguyen Van Thieu again threatened to "liquidate any citizen" hostile to his regime. He even went to the length of declaring that "we (i.e. the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique) have the right to sacrifice such citizens."

The same agency added that in an effort to prevent large meetings for peace and an end to the war, on Feb. 15, the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration announced a decision imposing restrictions even on religious services. These should be confined to the precincts of churches and pagodas and processions should be restricted to the maximum.

HOW WE TOOK PART IN THE GENERAL OFFENSIVE

(*Continued from page 5*)

By 8.30 a.m. we approached the H.Q. of the First Corps near Da Nang. We quickly called a meeting to call on the townsfolk to take to the streets.

The people smashed the seat of the wicked thugs, head of the multi-family groups and hamlets and tore down reactionary flags and streamers.

The enemy persistently called in armoured cars to fire wantonly at the crowds. However, thousands of people resolutely marched forward. Many women jumped on the vehicles and hindered the enemy fire. At last, under the noses of the 1,500 powerless GI's and puppets we made for the centre of Da Nang.

A VOLUNTEER SETS OFF

(*Continued from page 3*)

my guerilla unit and tried to capture me. "No, you devils, you won't get me". I thought to myself and kept dashing forward and gave them a thorough thrashing. Finally the whole enemy regiment fled in confusion. At that time, I had no particular skill, but one thing is certain: "death won't hit those who do not fear it and are not afraid of death because I knew that I would not die a useless death, but I would die for the people, for the Fatherland!".

His passionate voice filled the whole house with warmth. He paused for a second then continued:

"At that time I had only a sub-machinegun for weapon against the French. To day you fight the Yankees in much better conditions. As Uncle Ho has said, you're now fighting against the most brutal aggressor in the world. It's worth every effort, every sacrifice isn't it? Victory day is not far off. We must press forward. Many of our Southern compatriots massacred by the U.S. aggressors with every passing minute. At home you're my son and your mother's. In the next few hours, off from the family, you will become a revolutionary fighter fighting with arms in hand for the country's independence and freedom and for the future of all mankind. You should bear it in mind. What do you think about that?"

"I'll do my best to be worthy of your son", Chiem answered, brimming with affection and admiration.

"When fighting the Yanks" old Re said "You must do better than I did against the French. Remember the saying: "Lucky is a family whose sons surpass fathers."

He spoke with a great excitement, his arms and legs all in a tremor as if he was charging the enemy with his submachinegun pressed against his side.

"It seems there is no end to your talking. Go to sleep now. The boy must have some rest. You can resume your talk to-morrow morning!" Mme Re grumbled from a back room.

The old man nudged Chiem and whispered to him. "Never mind. We can sleep any moment we want to."

Father and son then went on with their chat and did not stop until Mme Re growled out a new complaint.

Moments later, both father and son snored.

Outside, the day began to break on the horizon. On an old tree at the village entrance a young bird twittered, then left its nest, spreading wide its wings in the cold morning breeze, and darted up to the high, immense sky.

Editor's note. — *On December 26, 1968, at Thanh Khe crossroads in the first ward of Da Nang city, seven fighters of the PLAF repelled attacks by 600 enemy troops, killed 82, wounded many others and destroyed one M.113 armoured personnel carrier. Here is a report by the Da Nang correspondent of Giai Phong Press Agency.*

THE SEVEN FIGHTERS OF THANH KHE CROSSROADS

THAT morning the enemy mustered one company of puppet **bao an** militia, one of puppet combat police, one platoon of American military police and scores of **dan vo** thugs — nearly 300 in all — for a round-up in Thanh Khê against seven PLAF fighters operating there.

After sealing off the whole area, they sent in search parties. The first PLAF team, composed of Huê, Minh and Tuyêt, held a lightning meeting on the tactics to be adopted. All agreed that the best defensive was offensive. As the random shots fired by an enemy patrol came nearer and nearer, Tuyêt unpinned a grenade. She was an 18-year-old girl. Suddenly she dashed out and hurled two grenades in quick succession; Huê and Minh followed up with angry bursts of sub machinegun. Five puppet combat police fell on the spot, the rest turned tail. The booty comprised grenades and an AR.15 quick-firing carbine together with three clips of ammunition. The AR.15 came in handy, for Tuyêt had no gun yet. The three PLAF fighters quickly moved to another block. By then the enemy had recovered from the stunning blow they had received and started launching counter-attacks. Five such onslaughts were repelled by the three PLAF fighters with submachinegun fire and grenades. The roadway was stained with big puddles of puppets' blood. Hard hit, the enemy now decided to withdraw into the houses across the street, taking with them their dead and wounded. Again the PLAF fighters moved to another combat position. Scaling two successive walls, they broke into the house of a bloodthirsty thug, made away with him and captured one carbine and a pistol.

At 8.30 another enemy patrol ran into the second PLAF team, headed by Nguyen Thanh. The puppets hastily retreated and called in a barrage of M.79 grenade-launchers. Hundreds of M. 79 shells exploded all around, but Thanh and his men never turned a hair. "Let them come at close range, boys," said Thanh with the greatest calm. When the barrage ended and the puppets thought they had wiped out their adversary, they rushed in, but only to meet with deadly bursts of submachine-gun and a hail of explosive charges. Many fell there and then, the rest showed a clean pair of heels, pursued by the four PLAF men who, darting out of combat trenches and making skilful use of the terrain strewn with debris and chunks of collapsed walls, poured a steady fire at them from the flanks and rear. Twice the puppets counter-attacked, twice they were beaten off with heavy losses. Their ranks thinned under the blows of the PLAF fighters. At one point, three combat police tried a sneak attack: two were killed by a grenade, the third by a shot in the chest.

*

THE fighting went on unabated between our seven fighters and the the nearly 300 enemy troops. A deadly game of hide-and-seek was played around Thanh Khê crossroads. The enemy behaved in a strange way: they were at once truculent and frightened. Hardly had they launched an attack when they hastily retreated. The officers shouted at their men, who refused to budge.

10.30. The enemy signalled for armed helicopters, which sprayed the area with bullets while calling on the PLAF fighters to surrender with loudspeakers. A battalion of American combat police and some puppet rangers were sent in, totalling about 300 men, supported by seven M. 113 armoured cars. A heavy shelling destroyed many civilian houses, followed at 11 by several onslaughts, hampering her movements, she asked Minh to cut it shoulder-short with her bowieknife.

A new enemy onslaught was under way. Gun in hand, Tuyêt dashed to a vantage point from which she fired deadly bursts at an enemy assault party trying to sneak in through a back alley. Her friends also quickly moved from house to house, hitting hard at the enemy from well protected positions. When their submachineguns ran out of ammunition, they used their pistols and also grenades captured from the enemy. Although physically exhausted by seven hours of continuous fighting, their spirit was never higher.

At 3 in the afternoon, having suffered 80 dead and many others wounded, with several of their armoured cars ablaze, the Americans and their puppets decided that they had had enough. They pulled out all troops and radioed in an artillery barrage, but the shells falling at random caused no harm.

When dusk fell and the enemy had retreated into defensive positions, the PLAF fighters safely made their way back to their unit, with the efficient help of the local people.

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

Military Operations

US DISASTER IN OPERATION DEWEY CANYON AND IN HUE SECTOR:

2,000 US and puppet casualties, 13 helicopters brought down, 37 tanks, armoured cars and trucks and 15 cannons destroyed in 24 days

SINCE Jan. 22 last, the U.S. Command has been carrying out a major clearing operation codenamed Dewey Canyon in the mountain area West of Hue which straddles the territories of the two provinces of Thua Thien and Quang Tri. Nine battalions of the U.S. marine and paratroops forces and of the First Division of the puppet army have been committed with substantial means to a sector lying between the famous valleys of A So to the Southeast and of Khe Sanh to the Northwest.

The enemy has met with stiff resistance from the regional troops of the PLAF and sustained heavy losses. According to *Giai Phong* Press Agency, on Jan. 27, a guerilla unit put a puppet regular company out of action at **Coc Muon**, Southwest of Quang Tri city. Big successes have been obtained by the patriots in the **Co Ca Va** hilly area, 45km West of Hue. On Feb. 5 a U.S. scout platoon was wiped out North of Co Ca Va, losing 60 men killed and 12 automatic weapons to the PLAF. On Feb. 7 and Feb. 8 the latter pounded the enemy encampments in this sector, inflicting great damage on them. On Feb. 10, at about 9 a.m. they intercepted 2 U.S. marine companies and destroyed the leading platoon. The survivors dug in on a bare hill were assaulted the next day. In a fierce 15-minute battle, the patriots put out of action a company of the 3rd battalion, U.S. 9th Marine Regiment.

On Feb. 13, 3 other engagements cost the aggressors 165 killed or wounded in the same area. On the following day, a toll of 75 was taken by the guerillas at **A Phat** and its surrounding area (60km West-Southwest of Hue).

On Feb. 17, the enemy switching over to the offensive in disregard of the Tet truce decided by the NFL, the PLAF riposted by overrunning, after 30 minutes' fighting, a U.S fortified position at Co Ca Va, killing or wounding more than 400 US marines, destroying 6 cannons and burning many warehouses.

Operation *Dewey Canyon* has thus become a real abyss into which the enemy command has thrown its best forces in the northernmost sector of South Viet Nam.

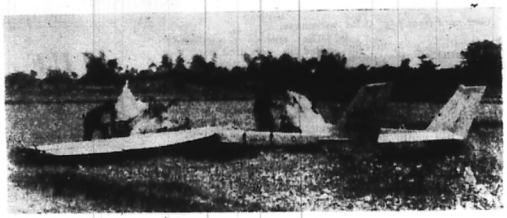
Meanwhile on the coastal plain of the provinces of Thua Thien and Quang Tri, the regional troops of the PLAF swung into action, coordinating their actions with the blows dealt by their comrades in the mountain area dozens of kilometres further West. The enemy's most important rear-bases were heavily pounded on Jan. 26, Feb. 2 and Feb. 3, especially Camp Evans at **Dong Lam** (base of a U.S. airborne brigade), the support base of **Tu Ha**, the **Tay Loc** airfield in Hue citadel, the **Don Toa, Phu Bai** and other bases, all situated less than 20 km from the ancient imperial city. A flat was recorded by the regional troops of **Huong Thuy** district (10 km Southeast of Hue, in beating off many sweeps and inflicting 400 adverse casualties, putting out of action 3 companies and an operational CP of the U.S. forces, destroying 9 heavy artillery pieces and 23 military vehicles including 17 tanks and armoured cars, and grounding 7 helicopters.

All told, in the two provinces in question, in a 24-day period from Jan. 25 to Feb. 17, the enemy lost 2,000 men killed or wounded, mostly GI's, 13 helicopters downed and 37 military vehicles and 15 heavy artillery pieces destroyed. Four U.S.-puppet companies and 9 platoons were written off the musterroll.

On Feb. 11, on the Saigon river, above the city, a U.S. patrol fleet was intercepted by the patriots who sank 3 LCM's with every man on board.

In the same area, follow-up and detailed reports on the great victory won by the PLAF on Jan. 31 at **Thi Tinh** camp (13 km Northeast of Dau Tieng and 65 km North-Northwest of Saigon) put enemy losses in this battle at 1,450 GI's including one U.S. battalion and 2 U.S. companies completely wiped out, 8 105-mm and 2 155 mm howitzers and 4 106.7 mm and 4 81 mm mortars destroyed. In other attacks launched simultaneously and in support of the main action against other enemy elements stationed around Thi Tinh, 14 adverse vehicles were destroyed, including 4 tanks and armoured cars, and 2 helicopters knocked down.

In the Mekong Delta, around Go Cong City (40km South of Saigon) between Feb. 4 and Feb. 10, regional troops of the PLAF assaulted puppet "pacification" forces and put 200 enemy soldiers out of action.



US reconnaissance plane downed at Loc Quang (Dai Loc district, Quang Da province).

On the Western Highlands, in the **Chu Pa** mountain, 38 km Nothwest of Pleiku where the 3 operations "Binh Tay" 48, 49 and 50, were foiled in January and early February, the enemy troops suffered on Feb. 11 a serious setback : a U.S. company was wiped out, 4 machineguns destroyed and 3 helicopters brought down in one of the fire-fights which lasted only 30 minutes between the Liberation fighters and elements of the 3rd Brigade, U.S. 4th Infantry Division.

On Highway N°14 North of **Kontum**, 8 enemy military vehicles were destroyed as they ran over guerilla-laid mines on Feb. 11, and 45 of the crewmen were killed.

In Nam Bo (ex-Cochinchina), **Giai Phong** Press Agency reported that at **Phu Hoa Dong**, 30 Km Northwest of Saigon, 2 battalions of puppet Division 5 were engaged in heavy fighting on Feb. 6 and took 250 casualties and lost 5 armoured troops carriers burnt.

SAIGON CROSS-SECTION STAGES YEAR-END PEACE SIT-IN

ON Feb. 3, more than 200 representatives of various religions, political and social organizations and prominent personalities, intellectuals and people of all strata in Saigon held a year-end sit-in, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported. Many high-ranking officers and officials of the Saigon puppet administration were also present.

Discussions were centered on the urgent problem how to end the present atrocious war and restore genuine peace to the country in accordance with the aspirations of the entire people.

Many delegates sternly condemned the hard-liners and fire-eaters who were sticking to war to make profits and who were hysterically trying to thwart the people's desire for peace. At the sit-in many well-known intellectuals and public and religious figures in Saigon including Lawyer Tran Ngoc Lieng, Reverend Nguyen Ngoc Lang, Buddhist Superiors Phap Tri and Thien Hoa, Lawyer Tran Thuc Linh, Mme Ngo Ba Thanh, and Dr. Le Van Hoach, called attention to the most imperative demands of various strata of the people, namely, an end to the war and achievement of genuine national sovereignty, independence and peace.

The audience fully supported Lawyers Tran Ngoc Lieng and Tran Thuc Linh's view that "one should not beg for peace, but militate for it" and that "everybody should defend independence with his own blood and should in no way serve as a stooge for any foreign country".

They shared the indignation expressed by Rev. Nguyen Ngoc Lang at arrest of those students who had spoken out the peace desire of the entire people. Nguyen Huu Chung and Ton That Hieu of the puppet National Assembly also mentioned the common desire to see a peaceful Viet Nam and urged that the "administration" (Thieu-Ky-Huong) and the "National Assembly (puppet) leave everybody to deal with the problem of peace.

The representatives of youth, students, women and workers voiced their

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